Botanical Name Common Name Origin Family

Ficus benjamina 'Natasha'

India

Moraceae

A miniature form of the common house plant. Part shade, great in containers. Very easy to grow. Small leaves and stature make it a great candidate for tropical bonsai.

Ficus benjamina 'Too Little'

India

Moraceae

A extra miniature form of the common house plant. Part shade, great in containers. Very easy to grow. Small leaves and stature make it a great candidate for tropical bonsai. Gets a fat squatty trunk and incredibly small leaves very slow.

Ficus benjamina 'Wiandai'

India

Moraceae

A miniature form of the common house plant. Part shade, great in containers. Very easy to grow. Small leaves and stature, plus zigzag stems make it a great candidate for tropical bonsai.

Ficus palmerii

Desert Fig

Mexico, Baja

Moraceae

The plant is most commonly seen as a succulent Bonsai, which unlike traditional Bonsai can be grown indoors (with good light). A very similar species, although smaller, Ficus petiolaris, it differs in that the midrib is colored red.

Ficus petiolaris

Desert Fig

Moraceae

A Mexican species with a fattened caudex base. In the ground can grow 20' with large broad gray palm-like leaves with a red midrib. Not picky about soil, and can be quite drought tolerant, but grows faster with water. Commonly used in containers and grown like a bonsai.

Ficus subulata

Bonsai Fig

Moraceae

This small fig is from tropical India, and is enthusiastically used in bonsai. The small narrow leaves, small round fruit and fat little trunk make it well suited for this venue. Grow outdoors in part shade inland, can take full sun at the coast. (Syn.:F. salicifolia and F. neriifolia)

Ficus thumbergiana

Moraceae

An unusual species with small green round leaves, and small round fruit. Great as a tropical bonsai. Can be grown as a houseplant under bright conditions. In the ground can grow to 20' or more. Prunes great.

Mestoklema arborescens

Tree Iceplant

Africa

Aizoaceae

A member of the ice plant family with small apricot yellow flowers. It has an upright growth habit with small succulent leaves. The roots can be lifted out the soil periodically for a bonsai effect, the skin of the roots being very showy. Very easy to grow, like sun.

Botanical Name Common Name Origin Family

Serissa foetida 'Single Pink' (S. japonica) Snow rose

A Japanese woodland native with very small leaves and very small pink flowers. Can be grown in the garden like an Azalea. A great specimen for bonsai. Best in part shade with regular water.

Trichodiadema bulbosum

Bonsai Iceplant

A South African succulent ice plant relative with small leaves and rosy flowers in the winter and spring. It forms fleshy roots which can be lifted out of the soil for their ornamental qualities. Looks great in a bonsai dish.

Cryptomeria japonica 'Elegans'

Plume Cedar

Japan

Taxodiacea

An evergreen conifer from Asia with a conical form to 20' and a soft textured foliage. One of the few Cryptomerias that does well in San Diego. Full sun or part, regular water with amended soil. Relatively slow. The foliage turns a great bronze with the onset of colder weather.

Crassula 'Hobbit'

Hobbit Jade

Africa - South

Crassulace

Easy to grow succulent, with contorted leaves, makes a good succulent Bonsai subject. Can get to two feet tall or more in the ground. Related to jade.

Serissa foetida 'Kyoto' (S. japonica)

Snow rose

Japan

Rubiaceae

A Japanese woodland native with very small leaves and very small white flowers. Can be grown in the garden like an Azalea. A great specimen for bonsai. Best in part shade with regular water. This selection has extra small leaves.

Serissa foetida 'Dbl. White' (S. japonica) Snow rose

A Japanese woodland native with very small leaves and very small double white flowers. Can be grown in the garden like an Azalea. A great specimen for bonsai. Best in part shade with regular water.

Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'

Blue Atlas

A conifer native to Algeria. 'Glauca' the blue form, is the only one readily available for purchase. These tree can get large , up to 60', so proper placement is critical. The needles are thick and heavy, and make the tree very picturesque. Small plants can be used for bonsai's. It's a very adaptable plant, but grows better with regular water.

Pinus thunbergii

Black Pine

A smaller pine in southern California, but can get to 100' in it's native Japan. The branches are irregularly arranged and covered in dark green needles that are long and stiff. This species takes well to pruning, it can trained a Christmas tree, or into a beautiful naturalistic style, similar to a large bonsai. Dwarf varieties exist and can be found in specialty nurseries. Tolerates abuse better than most pine, especially if kept in a container.

Botanical Name Common Name Origin Family

Crassula arborescens

Gray Jade

Crassulace

Related to the jade plant. The succulent gray round leaves are larger, although the shrubby habit is similar. Small cluster of star like flowers in the winter are a bonus. Can reach 4' or more in the ground, often grown as succulent bonsai, or container plant.

Juniperus chinensis procumbens 'Nana' Dwarf Garden

A low growing juniper with a very tight habit. Usually grows under one foot tall by 3' across. It has very small needles and an artistic branch structure. Full sun with good air circulation. An excellent specimen for bonsai, in fact one of the most used.